

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-3, 5, 9, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morita et al. (US 5,831,374) in view of Applicant's Related Art FIGs. 1 and 2.

Claims 4, 6-8, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morita et al. in view of Applicant's Related Art FIGs. 1 and 2 and further in view of Sreeram et al. (US 6,140,759).

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morita et al. in view of Applicant's Related Art FIGs. 1 and 2 and further in view of Konishi et al. (US 5,957,743).

Claims 1, 5, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

The application papers are objected to because they are not a permanent copy as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.52(a).

Submission of formal drawings is required.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that Morita et al., Sreeram et al., and Konishi et al., whether individually or combined, do not disclose all the features of claims 1-11 and 21.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant have not amended any claims. Accordingly, claims 1-11 and 21 are pending for reconsideration.

Applicant submits concurrently herewith a replacement/clean non-facsimile copy of the originally-filed specification.

Applicant also submits concurrently herewith a Submission of Formal Drawings.

Objection to the Specification

Applicant submits concurrently herewith a replacement/clean non-facsimile copy of the originally-filed specification. In addition, Applicant respectfully asserts that the replacement/clean non-facsimile copy of the originally-filed specification is on plain paper which is "non-smearing paper," and understands that the objection may relate to the submission of a facsimile copy. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the object be withdrawn.

Formal Drawings

Submission of formal drawings are required. Applicant submits herewith a Submission of Formal Drawings. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts the requirement for submission of formal drawings has been satisfied.

All Claims Comply with 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1, 5, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly not enabling any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to provide the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. Specifically, the specification "does not reasonably provide enablement of a final product of a flat luminescent

lamp having a patterned layer including a plurality of grooves formed through the layer to expose portions of the second surface of the first substrate.” Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 1 recites “a patterned layer formed on the second surface of the first substrate, wherein the patterned layer includes a plurality of grooves formed through the patterned layer to expose portions of the second surface of the first substrate.” Similarly, claims 5 and 21 both recite “a patterned layer formed on the second surface of the first substrate” and “a plurality of grooves formed through the patterned layer exposing portions of the second surface of the first substrate.” Applicant respectfully submits that support for these features may be found at paragraphs [0029] through [0035] and in FIGs. 4, 5, and 6A-6F of the instant specification.

As shown in FIG. 6, the flat luminescence lamp has a first substrate 31. As further shown in FIG. 4 and as presently claimed in claim 1, the first substrate 31 includes substrate 31a and patterned layer 31b. Thus, the flat luminescence lamp of FIG. 6 may include substrate 31a and patterned layer 31b.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 5, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

In the event that the above comments regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph are not deemed persuasive, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant’s undersigned representative to discuss the outstanding rejection.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3, 5, 9, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morita et al. (US 5,831,374) in view of Applicant’s Related Art FIGs. 1 and 2; claims 4, 6-8

and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morita et al. in view of Applicant's Related Art FIGs. 1 and 2 and further in view of Sreeram et al. (US 6,140,759); and claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morita et al. in view of Applicant's Related Art FIGs. 1 and 2 and further in view of Konishi et al. (US 5,957,743).

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as being based upon references, taken individually and in combination, that neither teach nor suggest the novel combination of features recited in independent claims 1, 5, and 21, and hence dependent claims 2-4 and 6-10.

With respect to independent claim 1, the applied art, whether taken singly or combined, does not teach or suggest a combination including a flat luminescence lamp having a patterned layer formed on the second surface of the first substrate, wherein the patterned layer includes a plurality of grooves formed through the patterned layer to expose portions of the second surface of the first substrate. Similarly, with respect to independent claim 5, as amended, the applied art, whether taken singly or combined, does not teach or suggest a combination including a flat luminescence lamp having a patterned layer formed on the second surface of the first substrate, and a plurality of grooves formed through the patterned layer exposing portions of the second surface of the first substrate.

The Office Action alleges that FIG. 1 of Morita et al. discloses a plurality of grooves 21 formed on the second surface of the first substrate. Applicant respectfully disagrees. In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, the bottom glass substrate 1b has a heat sink 2 is bonded onto a back surface 11 of the bottom glass substrate 1b. Thus, Morita et al. does not disclose a

patterned layer formed on the second surface of the first substrate, wherein the patterned layer includes a plurality of grooves formed through the patterned layer to expose portions of the second surface of the first substrate, as recited by amended independent claim 1. Similarly, with regard to independent claim 5, as amended, Morita et al. does not disclose a patterned layer formed on the second surface of the first substrate, and a plurality of grooves formed through the patterned layer exposing portions of the second surface of the first substrate.

Applicant further asserts that the Office Action does not rely on Applicant's Related Art FIGs. 1 and 2, Sreeram et al. and/or Konishi et al. to teach the features described above.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully asserts that Applicant's Related Art FIGs. 1 and 2, Sreeram et al. and/or Konishi et al. cannot remedy the deficiencies noted above.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-4 and 6-10 are allowable for all of the reasons discussed above with regard to independent claims 1 and 5, from which they depend, as well as the individual features each of dependent claims 2-4 and 6-10 recite.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn because Morita et al., Applicant's Related Art FIGs. 1 and 2, Sreeram et al. and Konishi et al., whether taken individually or in combination, neither teach nor suggest the novel combination of features clearly recited in amended independent claims 1 and 5, and hence dependent claims 2-4 and 6-10.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

By: _____



David B. Hardy
Reg. No. 47,362

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CUSTOMER NO. 009629
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Telephone: (202) 739-3000